

(c) if so, the number of camels at the disposal of the BSF at present in the border area of Gujarat during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to augment the number of camels in the force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though the use of camels by the BSF personnel is an essential element for the surveillance of the border in Gujarat, Tractors are also being used for border patrolling in Gujarat.

(c) The number of camels at the disposal of BSF during the last three years was as under :-

Year	Sanctioned	Actually held
1994	210	186
1995	210	176
1996	105*	96

(d) Deficiency of 9 camels in 1996 is being met by purchase of more camels and sufficient funds have been allotted for this purpose.

*16 tractors with trollys were provided to BSF in lieu of 105 camels.

Inland Fishery Marketing Infrastructure

531. SHRI VISHVESHVAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted some projects for approval regarding the strengthening of Inland Fishery Marketing Infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the cost of these projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be accorded approval ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Proposals for establishment of five units of fish marketing at a total cost of Rs. 3.88 crores under the fish marketing scheme were received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in November, 1996. One unit at a cost of Rs. 74 lakhs has been sanctioned in addition to the two fish marketing units sanctioned to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1992-94 at a total cost of Rs. 178 lakhs. In view of the proposals received from the other

States, there is no likelihood of sanctioning additional units to the Government of Madhya Pradesh at present.

Project Tiger

532. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have admitted before a Panel that tigers are dying fast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for revamping the 'Project Tiger' and for conservation of tiger habitats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there have been recent reports of some poaching of tigers to meet the demand of illegal international trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body. The Government is seized of the situation and has taken adequate steps to meet the challenge and is committed to protect the tiger and its habitats.

(c) The steps taken by the Government are as under :

- (i) A 'Tiger Crisis Cell' has been set up in the Ministry.
- (ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
- (iii) Steps have been initiated to set up 'Special Strike Force' in the Project Tiger areas.
- (iv) A protocol has been signed with the Government of Peoples 'Republic of China to coordinate bilateral efforts to stop illegal activities of poaching of tigers, and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body;
- (v) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the "Global Tiger Forum" for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and the habitat throughout the range countries.

Dairy Development

533. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where schemes for the development of dairy have been launched in Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any such scheme has been launched in Rajasthan during the said Plan period;

(c) if so, the achievements made under the Scheme(s) during the period;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage dairy activities on co-operative basis; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction in Eighth Plan period and proposed to be taken in Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Government of India launched the Integrated Dairy Development Project meant for Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas during the Eight Five Year Plan period. Projects received from the following States/ Union Territory have been approved and are at various stages of implementation : (1) Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Arunachal Pradesh (4) Assam (5) Bihar (6) Gujarat (7) Haryana (8) Jammu & Kashmir (9) Madhya Pradesh (10) Maharashtra (11) Manipur (12) Meghalaya (13) Mizoram (14) Nagaland (15) Orissa (16) Sikkim (17) Tamil Nadu (18) Tripura (19) Uttar Pradesh (20) West Bengal.

(b) All the districts of Rajasthan are covered under the Operation Flood Programme.

(c) Progress of key components of OF-III in Rajasthan upto Dec., 1996 is enclosed as statement.

(d) and (e) The Operation Flood programme of dairy development has been entirely on cooperative basis. In the ninth plan period Government proposes to expand the network of cooperatives.

Statement

The progress of Key Components of OF-III in Rajasthan upto December, 1996

No of DCS (Nos.)	5170*
Farmer Members (Nos.)	371401*
Milk processing capacity (TLPD)	1050
Average Milk procurement (TKGPD)	492
Average Milk Marketing (TLPD)	278

*Figures for the Month of September 1996.

TKGPD : Thousand Kg. Per Day.

TLPD : Thousand Litre Per Day.

Allocation for Agriculture Sector

534. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new plans proposals and schemes;

(b) the percentage of outlay granted to the agriculture sector for the Ninth Plan period; and

(c) the total allocation made for each State for this sector this Ninth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The outlay and the programmes for development of agriculture in the Ninth Plan have not been finalised.

Overcharging By Food Corporation of India

535. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has alleged that Food Corporation of India has been overcharging customers by supplying inferior grains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to set aside money for the public welfare as suggested by MRTPC ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has issued notice to the Food Corporation of consumers by issuing lower group of rice in higher group especially in the State of Kerala.

(b) The MRTPC has highlighted that the lower group stocks were issued in the higher group for which the rates of latter group were charged. It was alleged that the Food Corporation of India has earned an amount of Rs. 418.71 lakhs and customers were overcharged to that extent.

(c) The Food Corporation of India has given a detailed reply to the MRTPC listing therein the procedure being followed in the issue of rice under Public Distribution System (PDS). There is no excess amount received by